

wherein the transverse notch extends beyond a longitudinal median plane of a respective central row of blocks,

wherein a ratio of an axial width of the blocks of each central row to an overall axial width of a tread band, measured between shoulder ends of the tyre, is not less than 0.18:1, and

wherein the transverse grooves delimiting the blocks of the shoulder rows comprise, at least in a vicinity of a closest lateral circumferential groove, portions inclined in relation to the equatorial plane of the tyre in a direction opposite to an inclination of the transverse grooves delimiting the blocks of a closest central row.--

#### REMARKS

Applicants submit this Preliminary Amendment together with a national stage entry under 35 U.S.C. § 371.

In this Amendment, Applicants add three section headings, two section subheadings, and an Abstract of the Disclosure to conform to U.S. practice. Additionally, Applicants add claims to the right of priority and benefit. Further, Applicants cancel, without prejudice or disclaimer, claims 1-28, and add new claims 29-56, which include the same subject matter as the original claims, to improve clarity. The originally filed specification, claims, abstract, and drawings fully support the amendments to the specification and the addition of new claims 29-56. No new matter was introduced.

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If there is any fee due in connection with the filing of this Preliminary Amendment,  
please charge the fee to our Deposit Account No. 06-0916.

Respectfully submitted,

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